

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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R 221045Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2814
INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS BUCHAREST 2241

STATE FOR CU/EE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC RO
SUBJ: STIPEND FOR U.S. LECTURERS IN ROMANIA

REF: STATE 114973

1. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, FINAL NEGOTIATED TEXT OF
IMPLEMENTING CONDITIONS FOR 1975-76 PROGRAM OF EXCHANGES
(BUCHAREST 1878) SPECIFIES THAT THE "MONTHLY STIPEND"
FOR U.S. LECTURERS IN ROMANIA WILL BE 4500 LEI AND FREE
HOUSING. AS REPORTED IN BUCHAREST 2035, HOWEVER, SIGNING
OF CONDITIONS HAS BEEN DELAYED PENDING THE RETURN OF
AMBASSADOR BARNES. DURING OUR DISCUSSIONS IN APRIL,
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
ORALLY AGREED THAT 4500 LEI STIPEND WOULD BE RETROACTIVE
TO JANUARY 1975. THIS UNDERSTANDING WILL, HOWEVER, RE-
QUIRE FURTHER CONFIRMATION PRIOR TO THE SIGNING OF THE
CONDITIONS.

FULBRIGHT PROFESSOR CALDWELL BROUGHT AMOUNT OF HIS STIPEND
TO ATTENTION OF EMBASSY. WE HAD BEEN UNDER IMPRESSION
(SHARED BY DEPARTMENT AND DIES) THAT ALL PROFESSORS HERE
RECEIVE 4500 LEI PER MONTH. AMBIGUITY, AND LACK OF
PREVIOUS ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER BY PROFESSORS, STEMMED
FROM FACT THAT ROMANIAN PAY SLIP ACTUALLY LISTS STIPEND
AS 4800 LEI OF WHICH 800 IS DEDUCTED FOR TAXES. (FOLLOW-
ING EFFECTIVE DATE OF NEW IMPLEMENTING CONDITIONS HERE,
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GROSS PAY FIGURE WILL BE REVISED UPWARD TO REFLECT NET

OF 4500 LEI PER MONTH.)

3. THIS SITUATION HAS BEEN IN EFFECT, APARENTLY, FOR PAST SEVERAL YEARS DUE TO LACK OF SPECIFICITY IN PREVIOUS VERSIONS OF IMPLEMENTING CONDITIONS. DEPARTMENT RECORDS WILL SHOW THAT AIDE-MEMOIRE WHICH REPRESENTED CONDITIONS FOR 1971-72 PROGRAM OF EXCHANGES MERELY STATED THAT THE MONTHLY STIPEND FOR LECTURER CATEGORY WOULD BE "MADE KNOW AT THE TIME THE APPLICANT IS ACCEPTED." CONDITIONS FOR 1973-74 PROGRAM SIGNED IN WASHINGTON IN DECEMBER 1972 LACK EVEN THIS DIRECT REFERENCE TO FULBRIGHT INSTRUCTOR CATEGORY. IN THIS CONTEXT, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION HERE DEVISED 4800-4000 LEI FORMULA IN GOOD-FAITH ATTEMPT TO MEET REQUIREMENTS OF "ADEQUATE MONTHLY STIPEND FOR PARTICIPANTS" IN LIEU OF SPECIFIC IDENTIFICATION OF MUTUALLY-AGREED UPON ALTERNATE SUM. WHEN EMBASSY RAISED ISSUE IN LATE 1974, MINISTRY EXPLAINED EVOLUTION OF 4000 LEI FIGURE, INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO RAISE STIPEND TO 4500 LEI IN NEW DOCUMENT, BUT POINTED OUT THAT NO IMMEDIATE ADJUSTMENT WAS POSSIBLE WITHOUT AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM ANOTHER BILATERAL DOCUMENT.

4. EMBASSY'S STATEMENT IN DECEMBER NEWSLETTER WAS BASED ON INCOMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF BACKGROUND OF PROBLEM AND ASSUMPTION THAT 4000 LEI FIGURE WAS A SUDDEN ADMINISTRATIVE ABERRATION. SITUATION WAS MORE ACCURATELY AND FULLY EXPLAINED TO ALL FULBRIGHT PROFESSORS INCLUDING KRAL AND HODGDON AT JANUARY MEETING OF FULBRIGHT LECTURERS IN SINAIA. WE STATED AT THAT TIME THAT NEW IMPLEMENTING CONDITIONS WOULD CLARIFY PROBLEM AND THAT EMBASSY WOULD ATTEMPT, REPEAT ATTEMPT, TO GAIN RETROACTIVE PAYMENT TO JANUARY. WE DID NOT, OF COURSE, ANTICIPATE THAT SIGNING WOULD BE FURTHER DELAYED UNTIL JUNE. WE INTEND TO REITERATE OUR ORAL AGREEMENT FOR RETROACTIVE PAYMENTS PRIOR TO SIGNING, HOWEVER.

5. EMBASSY HOPES THESE DETAILS CLARIFY THIS MATTER.
VIETS

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